

Frederick Melo, *Pioneer Press*

Someday, getting from Rosemount to the Union Depot transit hub in downtown St. Paul could be as easy as jumping on a trolley car, or a bus that travels along an exclusive bus lane, or a light-rail line. You get the idea.

What a Rosemount-to-St. Paul transit route would look like hasn't yet been decided, but \$1.18 million in federal funds will help better define the options for the so-called Robert Street Corridor.

The federal Department of Transportation awarded a grant to the Dakota County Railroad Authority to evaluate transit alternatives between the Union Depot and southern Dakota County.

The corridor would connect Rosemount, West St. Paul, South St. Paul, Mendota Heights, Inver Grove Heights and St. Paul. An estimated 129,000 vehicles cross the Mississippi River at the Lafayette and Robert Street bridges each weekday, and the number is expected to grow heavily over the next two decades.

The grant was announced by the office of U.S. Rep. Betty McCollum, a Democrat from St. Paul who serves on the House Appropriations and Budget committees.